THE INTEREST OF THE NATION,

As it respects all the

Sugar-Plantations ABROAD,

And

Refining of Sugars

At Home,

Truly STATED;

And Humbly offered to the

Honorable House of Commons.

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The Intereſt of the Nation, *the* Sugar Plantations, *and the* Refiners *of* Sugars, *ſtated.*

IT is obſervable how induſtriouſly buſie ſome have been in miſrepreſenting the *true Intereſts* of the *Plantations*, when 'tis ſo frequently objected, that a Relief to the *Refiners* by a Drawback will be injurious to the ſaid *Plantations*: To obviate ſuch Impoſitions, wherever they have obtained; it will be neceſſary here to ſhew, that the Relief the *Refiners* do crave is of as great Uſe and Advantage to *them*, as to the *Refiners*. And although a Petition now in the Houſe of Commons, from thoſe concerned in all the *Sugar-Plantations*, and which import *Brown Sugars* only, being the firſt Product, aſſerting the ſame, puts it out of all doubt; yet it will not be amiſs to ſhew wherefore it is ſo.

Refining of Sugars in *England* is now brought to ſo low an ebb, that the Queſtion is, Shall it be deſtroyed or continued? If deſtroyed, where will the *Brown* or *Muſcovado* Importers ſell their Sugars? *Jamaica*, *Nevis*, *Antegoa*, *Monſerrat*, S. *Chriſtopher*, and at leaſt four parts of five in *Barbadoes* are all ſuch. If take-

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ing away a Draw-back, they have for exporting to Foreigners, be ſuch a Hardſhip upon them, being by that confined, as they ſay, to *England* only for a Market; will their being deſtitute of a Market at all in *England*, and forced to ſeek and depend upon a foreign Market alone, help them? But the *Refiner* deſires only to be enabled to make this a better, and ſo a Market of choice for them, and leave them their Draw-back and a Liberty thereby to take any other, when this pleaſes them not. Can they contrive better for themſelves than to multiply Buyers? And that there ſhould be contending between *England* and foreign Markets who ſhall give moſt for their *Sugars*.

By many Arguments, more than is needful here to uſe, it's evident there's an union of Intereſts, and inſeparable, without prejudicing both, the one as a Seller, the other as a Buyer; they draw one Breath, live and dye together. How comes it then that many whom it concerns to be truly informed are thus abuſed?

To diſcover this, it may be obſerved, there is another Intereſt not amounting in number to a fourth part of but one Iſland, *viz. Barbadoes*, that clay their *Sugars*. The Heads of this Intereſt, though ſmall in Number, are great in Figure, and imployed where they are moſt capable to manage a little and private Intereſt to great Advantages. They aſſume the Care of the Welfare of all the *Plantations*; but it's plain that the few of their own is only aimed at, and that to the Ruine of all the reſt;

reſt; for they, by bringing in their *White Sugars* and *Moloſſes*, lower and ſink a Market for the *Muſcovado*-Importer, even to a greater degree of a Burthen than the Duties that are impoſed upon them amount to.

We do not render the Duty as little on them; thoſe concerned for the Intereſts of *England* and *Plantations*, may happen to ſee occaſion to make this leſs, and that on the clay'd Importer more, or otherwiſe to diſcourage an Intereſt that's ſo diametrically oppoſite to both. To the firſt enough hath been ſaid; the latter, *viz.* the Nation in its darling Jewel, the Navigation, is as much impaired already as this Intereſt hath gained footing, and the Growth and Increaſe of it will as much impair and ruine the Navigation, as the Abatement of the uſe of two thirds of our Shipping that's uſed by the *Muſcovado*-Importer amounts to; for according unto the ſtated Rule in proportioning of Duties on Sugar, and which is the exacteſt Computation poſſibly to be made, Three Hundred of *Muſcovado* or *Brown* makes One Hundred of *White*. Accordingly the Subſidy Duty is 5 *s.* on *White*, 1 *s.* 6*d.* on *Brown*: The Impoſt Duty 7 *s.* on *White*, 2 *s.* 4 *d.* on *Brown*; ſo it's Three for One at leaſt; and conſequently one Ship of *White* brings the Lading of three of *Brown*: And is this the way to maintain Nurſeries for our Seamen? Have we any that may be properly called ſo, beſides the *Plantations* and *Newcaſtle*? For that of *Newfound-Land* is loſt, but how is not our buſineſs

to treat of here; lamented it is, but prevented would have been better.

If the Maxim of Production abroad and Manufacture at home that the moſt Politick Governments ever kept cloſe to be not enjoyn'd here, poſſibly we may have half a Score Weavers go to the *Plantations* and buy Negroes, and weave the Cotton-Wool upon the Place, the Tobacco Strippers and Cutters go to *Virginia* and follow their Functions there, and ſo leſſen the (occaſion of Shipping and) Cuſtom; and how far the Evils that attend Preſidents in this nature may grow, who knows? Many Thouſands of Families have now a Livelihood and Dependance on *Refining* of *Sugars*, and thoſe Manufactures, that through theſe Miſchiefs muſt periſh. Its an ordinary Charge when Sugar-Houſes in full work to expend one Houſe with another 1000*l.* which is 50000*l. per an.* throughout the Kingdom; few Trades but either depend on, or are benefited by them.

By all which it's ſeen the *Nation*'s, *Plantation*'s, and *Refiner*'s Intereſt is one and entire, all Advantages circulating evenly through them; and that of the *Clayers*, a Worm at the Root preying upon all Three: And ſhall all theſe Intereſts be ſacrificed to the Intereſt of a few already over-grown rich Men? For what concerns the Revenue in the *Refiners* Draw-back upon *Sugars*, its a perfect plain Bargain of 20 *per cent.* profit to the King; the King gives the *Refiner* 7 *s.*

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to ſave himſelf 9 *s.* 3 *d.* Three Hundred of *Brown Sugar* exported, draws back 9 *s.* 3 *d.* The *Refiner* working this, produces but One Hundred of *White*, for which deſires but 7 *s.* when exported; it's plainly a Hiring the *Refiner* to keep the *Muſcovado-Sugars* from being exported: And for every 9 *s.* 3. he ſaves the Revenue, the King will give him 7 *s.* The *Claying-Plantations* draw back 9 *s.* 6 *d.* and no Words made on't; how they come to be privileged thus is matter for Amazement, when the *Engliſh* refined *Sugars* are impriſon'd in *England*, not daring to look abroad without paying 6 *d. per* Hundred. And had they but this Market to themſelves, it would be a Favour; but if good at any time, the *Clayer* reaps the Benefit of it, until he makes it bad with his Quantities, and then picks his Markets abroad, having 9 *s.* 6 *d.* Draw-back as aforeſaid.

It's evident from what hath been ſaid, that the Intereſt of the *Nation* in all its parts, the *Plantations* in general and the *Refiners*, is interwoven and one Intereſt; and that the ſmall Intereſt of *Claying* of *Sugars* in but a ſmall part, as yet, of but one *Sugar-Iſland*, *viz. Barbadoes*, is deſtructive to all; and the Benefits that ariſe from it are ſo far from being publick, that it only makes a few Men very rich, and all the other Planters very poor; like a Wen that grows out of this Political Body or Intereſt, that draws all the Nutriment to it ſelf, to the languiſhing of the whole Body.

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It's a common Cry, the *Plantations* lie under many Burthens and Preſſures; and 'tis too true, that in the general they do; and it's hoped this may ſerve for a Glaſs in which it may be ſeen, and from whence it chiefly proceeds; and if the Farmers in *England* have never ſo good Crops and yet have bad Markets, they cannot be rich. Needs muſt the Importers of *Brown Sugar* therefore be poor when their Markets are bad, as already is ſhewed, by the Quantities of clay'd Sugar and *Moloſſes*. Sir *John Bawden* in his life time was wont frequently to ſay, they had better bury their *Moloſſes* in the *Plantations* or caſt them into the Sea, than ſend them hither; for *Moloſſes* always ſunk the Price of Sugar to a great degree; and he was known to be a Perſon that underſtood the Intereſt of the *Plantations*, and as much intereſted therein as moſt in his time.

It's pity, ſince *Refining* in *England* hath been a Trade before ever we had *Plantations*, it ſhould be loſt by the having them, when the having *Plantations* of our own is ſo natural a means to make it flouriſh, and others that have none of their own do flouriſh by the Product of ours. But ſo it is, that the *Engliſh Refiners* have not been able for many Months to work at all, altho at great Charges with ſtanding ſtill, many Houſes held by long Leaſes, ſome 140*l.* ſome 150*l.* *per ann.* Stocks Lying in Utenſils coſt 1000*l.* or 1200*l.* and theſe when a Houſe is demoliſhed not worth a third part of the Mony. Their Eſtates are much impair'd already, and without

without Relief many muſt be ruin'd; and although *Subjects* in, and in a ſenſe may be ſaid to be *Children* of, the Kingdom; have their Bread given to *Strangers*.

And this introduces a few Words, with reſpect to them, *viz. Holland*, *Flanders* and *Hamborough*, to which places our *Brown Sugars* are conveyed to be Refined; which being the Product of our own *Plantations*, as *Wooll* is of our own Nation, might be wrought all of it at home, to the great Advantage of the Kingdom and Revenue. And it's obſervable that formerly before we were ſo kind as to ſend them our *Brown Sugars*, at leaſt in ſuch Quantities as now we do, they uſed to buy our *Moloſſes*; *Holland* and *Flanders* being the chief Markets for that Commodity: But now they have gotten our Meat, they will have none of our Porrage, and at any time when *Moloſſes* is low here, they lay a high Duty to keep it out from coming there; great Quantities of *Loaf-Sugar* likewiſe was uſed to be exported to *Flanders*, but when they found means to have our *Brown Sugar* there was a Duty of 2*d. per* pound laid upon it, and ſo kept our; ſo that what little Care ſoever hath been uſed to preſerve this Trade in *England*, theſe Inſtances ſhew the regard others have for it; and the *Hollanders* cannot but be reckoned good Judges in the Intereſt of Trade: And well may they eſteem it, for by it they have increaſed their Trade and Navigation, although with the abatement of as much of ours; great Quantities

of *Loaſe-Sugar* were formerly exported for all the *Eaſt* Country, *Italy*, *Spain*, and *Turky*, Places which now the *Hollanders* ſerve; the Train of Inconveniences that attend this is too long to recite. Returns in Pitch, Tar, Hemp, Timber, *&c.* for our naval Stores are Commodities our Nation cannot be without, and by this means the *Dutch* have them to better Advantages than we.

Hamborough likewiſe, that hath not one *Plantation* of its own, makes ſo good an Improvement of the Talent of *Refining* of Sugar caſt into its Lap, that tho but one City or Town it hath near as many Sugar-Houſes as all *England* hath, for all its being privileged with ſo many *Plantations* of its own.

Upon the whole the *Refiners* Caſe cannot but be ſeen to be very hard, and to give them ſuch a Relief as they pray for, cannot be thought to be too much, ſince it will when received (although preſerve them from ruin, which is a great Mercy) never enrich them; they ask but *7 s.* becauſe the Revenue may gain *2 s. 3 d.* by giving it; the *Sugar-Clayer*, as before is ſaid, hath *9 s. 6 d.* and the reaſon the *Refiners* deſire not as much as they have, is not becauſe they deſerve it not as much, nor becauſe they need it not much more.

And they humbly hope the Honorable the Houſe of Commons, now their Caſe being known, will take notice in what Intereſt they ſtand, and provide for

for it as it relates to a publickand an univerſal Good to the Kingdom, and that many renowned Patriots will take up a deſtitute, though a good Cauſe, and promote it, againſt the Deſigns of its few, tho mighty, Oppoſers; many of whom ſeem'd to have ſome relenting alittle while ago, and promiſed to aſſiſt the *Refiners* to procure ſome Relief, and for that end their Petition was preſented to the Houſe, in the body of which they own the *Plantations* aggrieved through the Preſſures of the *Refiners*.

It was upon this Petition that a Committee was appointed; and that it is not followed, proceeds from the Reſolves of ſome Gentlemen, who by this may be ſeen to be as bad Friends to the *Plantations*, as they have ever been to the *Refiners*, and their oppoſing them in a Relief that will no way prejudice them if granted, is a demonſtration that the opportunity preſenting, of the *Refiners* being down, 'tis their time to keep them ſo. But all that hath been offer'd is humbly ſubmitted to the Honorable Houſe of Commons, deſiring nothing more, than that which makes moſt for a publick Intereſt may only be encouraged and promoted.

FINIS.